THE SPEECH OF A Noble Peer.

LONDON

Printed: And Sold by *John Morphew* near *Stationer's-Hall.* 1712.

Price 6 d.

HARVARD COLLEGE LIBRARY
MAY 28, 1913
SUBSCRIPTION FOR
ENGLISH HISTORICAL TRACTS

A SPEECH OF A Noble Peer.

THE SPEECH OF A Noble Peer.

AS no true *Englishman* can look back upon the past Miscarriages of this Kingdom, without great Horror and Reluctance, so none, I hope, can now look forward, upon the pleasing Prospect of a happy Peace, without a joyful Satisfaction. The miserable Condition we were in of late, under the crafty Management of an avaritious Party, or, at least, a Junto of such Persons who seem-

ſeemingly eſpous'd their Intereſt, the better to fill their own Coffers with the Publick Treaſure, and to gratify their Ambition, without the danger of the Laws, to the ruin of their Country, hath, for ſome Years, been the deplorable Conſideration of many true Lovers of our *Engliſh* Conſtitution, how or which way they might give ſuch Bounds to an aſpiring Faction, that might timely prevent the fatal Subverſion of all that in Honour and Juſtice ought to be dear unto us; but we were ſo far deceiv'd into a deſtructive State, that a ſafe recovery of our loſt Happineſs, ſeem'd a Taſk too difficult for Humane Policy, without the miraculous Aſſiſtance of Divine Providence, which, when it was leaſt expected, vouchſaf'd to enable ſo Glorious an Inſtrument as Her preſent Majeſty to perform ſo good a Work, at ſuch a time, when the Loyaleſt of Her Friends, as well as the moſt implacable of Her Enemies, thought it impoſſible to be effected; therefore, ſince the beſt of Queens, like a Heroick Lady, hath ſo highly exerted Her Royal Magnanimity, in reſtoring to its former Luſtre the Eſtabliſh'd Church, when become the Mock of Atheiſts; our Ancient Laws,

when made the Property of a Party, and when Liberty of the Subject, when invaded by a Faction: I say, since these Blessings have been handed to us from Heaven, by its great Vice-gerent, together with a just and honourable Peace, in spight of all Opposers, let Her Majesty's Goodness become our worthy Example, and invite us all to an unanimous Concurrence in these Blessed Undertakings, which God hath put into Her *English* Heart, for the universal Benefit of Her Injur'd Kingdoms; and let us not divide or kindle Animosities among ourselves, at such a time, when so many of our Countrymen are become *Dutchmen*, and are in greater Care to propagate the Interests of our precarious Friends, than to secure the Welfare of their own Native Country. For those among us may seem to put a Religious Glose upon their unnecessary Cavils, and endeavour to pass their Objections upon the World, as the results and dictates of a clear Conscience; yet am I perswaded, if they would but examine themselves, as Christians, they would find their Pretences to be nothing but the Froth of their fermented Choler, the Fumes that arise from an over-partial Judgment,

or the giddy Vapours of a boundleſs Ambition.

As to the firſt, If there be any ſuch Reſentments among us as to provoke any Man to look upon his Brother with an Eye of Enmity, I heartily deſire we may interpoſe our Chriſtianity, to the utter extinguiſhing of all ſuch Animoſities: For if we once begin to nod our Heads at one another to pleaſe contending Parties, 'twill be enough to perſwade ſome People that they ſtand but looſly upon our Shoulders. Therefore, whoever is for promoting ſuch ſanguinary Work, I think juſtly deſerves to have his own Pole firſt thrown into the ſame Tub which the *Scythian* Queen, *Tomyris*, prepar'd for *Cyrus* the *Perſian*; for he that thirſts for Blood ought to fall a Sacrifice to his own Cruelty.

As to the ſecond, If any Man's Spleen be cultivated by too partial a Conſideration of his own Intereſt, I would have him throw off his Avarice, as a cleanly Perſon would a defil'd Garment, and no more diſhonour the Dignity he bears, with ſuch a mercenary Itch, that is even a ſcandalous Diſtemper in the loweſt of the Nobility, and ought never to be found without the Gates of the City; for as GOD

hath

hath bleſs'd us in a Station above the common People, we ought to teach them to abandon Covetouſneſs by our Generous Example, ſince, as *Seneca* moſt wiſely and truly obſerves, *A Poor Man needs but a few things, but a Covetous Man wants every thing.*

As to the laſt, If any Man's Ambition be ſo Irregular among us, as to graſp at more Power than the Sovereign Wiſdom ſhall think him worthy of, or hath ingratefully endeavour'd to ſubvert that Authority, from whence he firſt deriv'd thoſe Honours and Poſſeſſions which might have made him a ſhining Ornament in his Prince's Court, as well as a glorious General in the Field of Battle: I ſay, If ſuch a Perſon can be found upon the venerable Liſt of the *Britiſh* Nobility, let him throw himſelf at the Feet of a merciful Queen, whoſe Royal Patience, like the tender Goodneſs of her injur'd Anceſtors, is much more inclinable to Forgive than Puniſh; and, like the Angels in Heaven, hath *more Joy over one Sinner that repenteth, than in ninety nine juſt Perſons that need no repentance.* But pray, my Lords, I beſeech ye, let us not aim at Heads, upon bare Surmiſes, leſt we precipitate

ourſelves into that Ingratitude which we ſuſpect in others, and contract that Guilt upon our Noble Order, that will render us raſh, cruel and ignoble to ſucceeding Generations.

But that which ſtartles me the moſt is, that ſo many of thoſe Grave and Reverend Gentlemen, who are bound by their Function to preach up Peace and Unity, ſhould ſhew themſelves ſuch Votaries for a bloody War, to pleaſe a Faction who are Enemies to their Order, and would be glad to pull thoſe white Feathers out of their Wings, by which they ſoar to ſuch a profitable height in the upper Regions of the Church; and that they ſhould ſo earneſtly exhort the People, by their exemplary Oppoſition, to fly in the face of the Government, by condemning and controlling thoſe excellent Meaſures, ſo well and wiſely concerted for the good and ſafety of the Kingdom, at ſuch a Juncture, when there was no poſſibility of continuing the War, without a viſible hazard of our Country's Ruin. But when I conſider again, what Holy Attempts in the late Reign, as well as preſent, have unhappily fallen under the Correction of the Hangman, I then think it is no wonder to find that the Politician

hath eat up the Divine, that the ſubtilty of the Serpent ſhould be more conſpicuous in ſuch Men than the Innocency of the Dove; and the Sword of War, ſince they feel it not, be (contrary to Scripture) eſteem'd a greater Bleſſing than the Palm or Olive-Branch: But had it not been for more ſecret Reaſons than the World is aware of, it is verily believ'd the Peace would have been carry'd by a fuller majority ---- *But godlineſs is gain*, ſaith the Great Apoſtle; which Holy Text is often verify'd in the worſt ſenſe, by ſome avaritious Interpreters.

As to you Gentlemen, who juſtly boaſt yourſelves the Bulwark of our *Engliſh* Liberties, I think it my Duty to remind you of our Home-Diviſions, which are the only Clouds that darken the Proſpect of our approaching Happineſs; and ſince it is your Zeal for the Publick that muſt thin the Air of theſe dangerous Exhalations, I muſt beg you to conſider from whence they firſt ariſe; for to remove the Cauſe is to take away the Effect; which tho' it dwells diſguis'd under a Sattin Cap in many good Families of this Kingdom, as well as in the Nooks and

Allies of this our Preaching Metropolis, yet the divers Sources of theſe growing Calamities are all within the reach of your extenſive Power, who never wanted Wiſdom to ſuppreſs ſuch Evils, if once chearfully undertaken. Neither at preſent is the difficulty great, ſince the very Incendiaries, who have been the principal Encouragers of theſe Miſchiefs, have already given you a fair Example by which the Work is to be perfected, in their attempting to Padlock up the Mouths of the only Orthodox Clergy of this Kingdom, that no Doctrines ſhould have the ſtamp of Authority, but ſuch as tended to the Overthrow of Monarchy, and to prepare the People for a Democratical Government, under a Rump or a Protector, as hath already been experienc'd, to the great ſatisfaction of the Pious Anceſtors of thoſe induſtrious Saints, who have been long endeavouring at the like happy Revolution; therefore the ſame Padlocks, prepar'd by their own Managers, if apply'd with Moderation to the Broachers and Maintainers of Seditious Principles, will, in all probability, put a ſeaſonable ſtop to thoſe treaſonable Whiſperers, who may otherwiſe become, in

a little

a little time, the loud Trumpeters of Rebellion: Nor can they with reaſon complain of Severity, ſince *Sauce for the Gooſe is Sauce for the Gander*: Beſides, all Tolerations, Privileges, and Immunities are undoubtedly forfeited, and ought to be withheld, whenever they are turn'd to the deſtruction of the Government by which the ſame were granted; for it is wholly inconſiſtent with true Policy or Juſtice, for any Supreme Authority to maintain a Liberty to others which is ruinous to itſelf; and that Republican Principles are dangerous to Monarchy, and taught in Publick by our Sectaries, I think may be granted without further Evidence.

I cannot be inſenſible that ſome among you have ſtickl'd hard for a continuation of the War, for no other reaſon but the ſake of the Advantages you have luckily collected out of the Ruins of your Country, with as much Honeſty and Conſcience as are us'd by ſuch compaſſionate Chriſtians, who, when their Neighbour's Houſe is on Fire, under pretence of ſaving what they can for the Sufferer, run away with his Goods. But in caſe the War had furniſh'd you with a fair Opportunity of

enriching your Families with the juſt Perquiſites of your Profitable Employments, and you ſhould therefore deſire, againſt the good of your Country, to prolong the Sword, I think you are equally to blame with the unreaſonable Farmer, who, becauſe his own Grounds require abundance of Rain, will be always praying, to the Prejudice of his Neighbours, againſt Fair Weather. Beſides, If a Nation whoſe Wealth and Happineſs intirely depend upon Foreign Commerce, which never flouriſhes but in time of Peace, ſhould be govern'd by a Miniſtry, who, for the ſake of managing exorbitant Taxes, ſhould be ſtill for prolonging an unneceſſary War, what could be the reſult of ſuch avaritious Conduct, but inſufferable Miſery?

We have been Twenty Years promiſing to knock at *Paris* Gate, but notwithſtanding all our dear-bought Victories, could never come near enough to handle the Knocker; yet our Succeſſes have been much greater in the preſent Reign than we could reaſonably hope for, but ſo ſlender in the Late, that His Majeſty was glad to ſay to the *French* Embaſſador, *Tell your Great Maſter, Fate, not Choice, made*

me

me his Enemy; and as I ever found him Generous in War, ſo now in Peace, I ſhall always endeavour to preſerve his Friendſhip; or Words to that effect. Therefore, if a continuation of the War be neceſſary now, what an overſight was it then to conclude a Peace? or if the *Reſwick* Accommodation was a Vertue in the Prince, ſure the Negotiation at *Utretcht*, in which Her Majeſty has obtain'd ſuch ſafe and honourable Terms, when our Neceſſities were greater, muſt perpetuate Her Glorious Memory to the utmoſt Period of Poſterity? And thus much, I think, may be juſtly ſaid, without *rudely handling*, as the Reverend Doctor has it, *the Memory of Her Predeceſſor*.

The Treaty of Partition might be a Noble Project, for ought I know, and ſo it might be to dig a Thoroughfare to the *Antipodes*; and, as the Caſe ſtands, I believe the latter might be accompliſh'd as ſoon as the former; from whence it is reaſonable to conjecture, the Treaty aforemention'd was only laid as a ſure Foundation for a perpetual War; by which means, the Factious Managers thereof, could they have held their own, were to have crush'd the Monarchy, and enſlav'd the Nation.

tion under an Olygarchy of Tyrants, if not a *Dutch* Democracy, which, GOD be prais'd, by the Mercy of Providence, and the Heroick Conduct of the beſt of Queens, is now happily prevented.

I hear a mighty noiſe, among a medly of People who call themſelves Whigs, and ſeem to be proud of that old muſty Appellation, of the Proteſtant Intereſt being mightily ſunk abroad, upon the account, I ſuppoſe, of the ſeaſonable Chaſtiſement the *Dutch* lately met with for their unfriendly Obſtinacy; if they mean by that, the Intereſt of ſuch Proteſtants as are for pulling down the Church of *England*, eſtabliſh'd here by the Laws of this Kingdom, of which I profeſs myſelf to be a ſincere Member, I think, we ſhould not ſhew ourſelves very wiſe in weakening our Country to ſupport ſuch a ſort of Intereſt, either at Home or Abroad, that is deſtructive to our own; for, by that canting Diſtinction, they only mean ſuch Proteſtants, who, by Rebellion and Outrage are for pulling down their lawful Monarchs, in order to eſtabliſh an univerſal Commonwealth through all *Europe*, that the *Dutch* may be the Head; for which rea-

ſon

ſon, ſo many *Engliſh* Proteſtants, as they are pleas'd to call themſelves, are ſuch Sticklers for the Intereſt of that People; or otherwiſe Her Majeſty's *Good Peace* would have met with no Oppoſition: And to this Project of an univerſal Republick, I look upon the *Treaty of Partition* to have been the firſt Step.

The wonderful Bleſſings and Benefits of the late Revolution have been extravagantly extol'd by ſome People, who now finding themſelves diſappointed of their Aim, begin to change their Minds; and by others, for good reaſon, who, by dipping their Fingers into the Publick Caſh, have made plentiful Proviſions for themſelves and Families: But what theſe *Revolution Principles* are, ſo much talk'd of and ſo little underſtood, I am apt to think no body knows but the *Review*, and he, like a true Amuzer of Mankind, has always had the cunning to keep them to himſelf. One ineſtimable Comfort, we cannot but acknowledge, is communicated to us by that hazardous Change, which is the Bleſſing of Her Majeſty to reign over us; and, indeed, had we enjoy'd Her Government ſooner, it might have been better for us. Therefore,

ſince

fact She now ſits upon the Throne of Her Anceſtors, and by the miraculous Adminiſtration of that Power which GOD hath given Her, has, with a compaſſionate Hand, heal'd the dangerous Wounds of this Her bleeding Kingdom, and ſo wonderfully reſtor'd us to that Peace and Happineſs we have been long Strangers to, I think, the leaſt Returns that a Grateful People can poſſibly make to ſo Glorious an Inſtrument, not only of our preſent but our future Welfare, is to Love, Honour, and Obey the beſt of Queens, who hath ſo intirely wedded Her true *Engliſh* Heart, to the Intereſt of Her Kingdoms, that as Her Majeſty, like a *Moſes*, hath led us out of the *Houſe of Bondage* into the *Land of Canaan*, we, Her thankful Subjects, may boaſt the Gratitude of raiſing up Her Greatneſs above the danger of Her Enemies, that they may behold with Envy what they cannot reach, admire the Wiſdom they know not how to baffle, and dread that Juſtice which they cannot obviate.

Nothing diſtracts People in their Duty to their Prince, ſo much as that partial and piecemeal Obedience which hath been taught

and

and warranted by ſome faſhionable Divines, who have labour'd hard to be thought ſound Preachers, yet, inſtead of bending their Auditory to a due Subjection to the Government they live under, and inſtructing them in the ſeveral Branches of their Duty to the Sovereign, have been very induſtrious to give Limits to their Obedience, unwarranted by the Scriptures, and to teach 'em not how, but when not to obey, and ſo prepare them upon Emergencies of State, to cavil and reſiſt when the Intereſt and Safety of the Publick, (tho' a Point be ſtrain'd) require an abſolute Submiſſion: So that by ſuch ſort of Guides who put the wrong End foremoſt, the People are better inſtructed how to be negatively Stubborn, than affirmatively Dutiful; notwithſtanding St. *Paul*, as well as his great Maſter, hath given ſuch poſitive Rules of Obedience, that admit of no ſuch curtail, or temporiſing Evaſions, as have been oft inſinuated by the wideners of our Diviſions; therefore, as a natural Wit is not ſufficient, without other helps, to direct us in the Duty that we owe to our Governors, and what right they have to exact that Obedience from us which is due unto them, it is

very much to be wiſh'd, that ſo uſeful a Science (for ſo it is, and built, as wiſer Heads than mine agree, upon ſure and clear Principles, and to be learn'd by deep and careful Study, or from ſuch Maſters who have made it their Buſineſs to be skill'd therein) was more painfully inculcated by thoſe that teach us, that ſo needful a Knowledge might be more univerſally underſtood; which would prove, undoubtedly, the ſureſt Means that the Pulpit could advance to recover Peace and Unity, and preſerve a right underſtanding between the Prince and People, upon which the Safety and Happineſs of every Kingdom, (under GOD) moſt intirely depend. But ſo long as Antimonarchick Principles are ſuffer'd to be broach'd in every Corner, and ſuch ſlender Antidotes given by our Church Phyſicians, to expel the Poyſon, it is morally impoſſible that our Diviſions ſhould be heal'd, or the People be otherwiſe than corrupted in their Duty.

We have many among us, who, in contempt of Monarchy, ſeem paſſionately in Love with the *Dutch* Government, tho', I think,

think, with as little reaſon, as a Man would prefer a Diſh of dry'd Skate, drown'd in oily Butter, to an *Engliſh* Surloin of noble Beef, ſwimming in its own Gravy; not but ſome depray'd Appetites, (much good may it do them) may have a ſtronger fancy for the former than the latter; but ſuch a choice muſt needs be the reſult of ſome humorous Diſtemper or fantaſtical Curioſity: So that I cannot but think ſuch *Engliſhmen*, who extol the Happineſs of the *Dutch*, in relation to their Government, above what they enjoy in their own Country, under a Kingly Authority, to be either over-run with Spleen, greatly miſinform'd, or bewilder'd in their Senſes; for every body that knows *Holland* muſt allow, they are ſo miſerably oppreſs'd with Taxes, even in the Times of Peace, that many of their topping Traders are daily forc'd to ſuffer their Shop-doors to be taken off the Hinges, and carry'd to the *Tol-Booth* for non-payment, that whole Streets may be found with ſcarce a Door or a Window-ſhutter to defend them from the Weather. And as for their Lands, they are ſo ſeverely Tax'd, that many would be glad to give away

their Inheritance, which they are forc'd, by the State, to hold, and to pay more than the Income; which is a Bleſſing, GOD be thank'd, that, tho' we have too much deſerv'd, hath been hitherto mercifully withheld from us. Yet I cannot but confeſs, they have one good Law among them, which is, That all Opinions ſhall have a free exerciſe of their Religious Worſhip, paying liberally to the State for that Liberty; but that no Diſſenter from their National Church ſhall meddle or make with, or be ever admitted to any ſhare in the Government: a wiſe and cautious Example, that ought to be follow'd by their Neighbours, and the only Rule they have that ought to become a Precedent to all *Europe*. They have, its true, been a Thriving People, but who may they thank for it, but the Crown of *England*; every Man knows, who hath read Hiſtory, how kind a Friend thoſe States, when in diſtreſs, had of the Bountiful Queen *Elizabeth*, as an acknowledgment of which, they gave into Her Poſſeſſion, in the Year 1585, the Towns of *Flushing* and the *Brill*, the Fort of *Rammekins* and two others, made Her Patroniſſe, the Earl of *Leiceſter*, abſolute Gover-

nour

nour and Captain-General of *Holland*, *Zealand*, and the Confederate Provinces, (the without the Queen's Privity, who soon oblig'd to revoke their Patent) and also granted, That every Embassador from the Crown of *England* should have the Privilege of sitting and voting in their *Stadthouse*. Which last Favour they continu'd without grumbling, till the beginning of King *Charles* the First, Sir *Dudley Carleton* being the last Minister from hence that enjoy'd that Honour, King *James*, some Years before, having given back *Flushing* and the *Brill*, &c. *without which* (as my Lord *Clarendon* observes) *Men thought those States would not have had the Courage, so soon, to have degraded the Crown of* England *from a place in their Councils, which had prosper'd so eminently under the shadow of that Power and Support.* Yet, notwithstanding such a generous Resignation made them, they quickly grew so prodigal as to forget their Gratitude.

We have People among us so negligent of the Honour, Safety, and Well-being of their own Native Country, that they think the *Dutch* most hardly us'd, because we have not

Faith enough in their Friendſhip to be careleſs of ourſelves, at ſo critical a Juncture; and to intirely ſubmit the preſent Circumſtances of our Affairs to their Management and Mercy, who are our only Rivals in Trade, Enemies to our Church and Government, and never our falſt Friends but for their own Security; a People who have ſlighted a Queen who hath been their Nurſing-Mother, encourag'd a Faction to be Proud and Contumelious, and have too evidently aim'd at the ruin of a Country, whoſe Prince and whoſe Subjects have, in all times of danger, been their only Deliverers.

Therefore, notwithſtanding the wonderful things they have done for us, (as ſome excellent Recorders of falſe Intelligence would moſt zealouſly inſinuate), and the generous Uſage they intended to give us, had we ſhew'd ourſelves ſuch Politicians as to have ſtood to their Courteſy, I think every true *Engliſhman* muſt of neceſſity agree, that Her Majeſty and Her preſent Miniſtry have taken the wiſeſt Courſe to provide well for us. The Conſequence of which, in a little time, will prove ſo convincing an Argument to all ſtubborn Unbelievers,

that

that they will be aſham'd to own the Objections they have rais'd upon ſo weak a Foundation; and when they come to ſhare the Bleſſings of a Peace, they have render'd themſelves, by their partial Heat and Folly, ſo intirely unworthy of, I queſtion not but they will blame their Leaders and repent their own Raſhneſs, which, if it had not been over-ballanc'd by the miraculous Conduct and Royal Courage of Her Heroick Majeſty, might have precipitated their Country into utter Ruin.

Therefore let us pray heartily for the Church, Queen, and Miniſtry, be obedient in all things for their Honour and the Kingdom's Good. And, as for the *Dutch*, be always ready to ſhew ourſelves their Friends, ſo far as it is conſiſtent with our own Intereſt and Safety.

FINIS.

that they will be asham'd to own the Objections they have rais'd upon so weak a foundation; and when they come to share the Blessings of a Peace, they have render'd themselves, by their partial Heat and Folly, so entirely unworthy of, I question not but they will disown their Leaders and repent their own Conduct, which, if it had not been over-ballanc'd by the miraculous Conduct and Royal Courage of Her Heroick Majesty, might have precipitated their Country into utter Ruin.

Therefore let us pray heartily for the Church, Queen, and Ministry, be obedient in all things for their Honour and the Kingdom's Good. And, as for the Dutch, be always ready to shew ourselves their Friends, so far as it is consistent with our own Interest and Safety.

FINIS.